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ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL ISSUES REGULATIONS  
GOVERNING CLASSIFICATION OF PEASANTS

Peiping, 20 August (Hsin-hua) -- On 8 August 1950, at the forty-fourth session of the Government Administration Council of the Central People's government, the following regulations were promulgated concerning the classification of the peasant classes.

Introduction

1. These regulations are issued to insure the precise carrying out of the Land Reform Law of 30 June 1950.
2. The Government Administration Council of the Central People's government recognizes the two documents "How to Classify Peasants" and "The Solution of a Number of Problems Connected With Land Reform" issued by the Juichin /Kiangsi/ Democratic Central Government in 1933 with the exception of a few provisions not now applicable, as embracing the basic principles for the present land-reform program. These two documents were repromulgated by the Central Committee of the CCP, on 25 May 1948, and were used in the land-reform program. This experience demonstrated that they are still applicable today. Hence, after making certain revisions and additions the Government Administration Council has issued these two documents as a basic to the solution of land-reform problems henceforward. All alterations in the two documents made by the Government Administration Council have been so labeled, including some new regulations which have been added.
3. In case of conflict between the terms of the above documents and the Land Reform Law, the provisions of the latter shall be followed.
4. Additions to these documents may be made by provincial government authorities, according to the dictates of local conditions, in determining of the classification of the peasants, but such additions must be reported to the Government Administration Council for review.

The text of the supplementary provisions issued on 4 August 1950 by the Government Administration Council is as follows:

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A. How to Demarcate Classes in Rural Areas

## 1. Landlords

a. Those who rent a large amount of land from landlords and in turn lease it to others shall be designated Grade 2 landlords if the income from such land affords them a standard of living above that of medium peasants. The treatment of Grade 2 landlords shall be the same as that accorded the landlord class in general. If, however, such persons cultivate a portion of such land themselves, they shall be treated the same as rich peasants although retaining the designation of Grade 2 landlord.

b. The status of revolutionary military personnel, heroes' dependents, laborers, white-collar workers, self-employed professional workers and artisans, small tradesmen, and those who rent out small quantities of land because they are occupied in a trade or are physically unable to work shall be determined according to their profession or trade. Such persons may be designated as small lessors of land, but may not be considered as landlords.

c. The status of persons who have an income by reason of a trade or profession, but who also rent out agricultural land in amounts greater than the average holdings per household of the landlords in a given locality, shall be determined according to this major source of income. Such persons may be designated as "(trade or profession) - landlord," or "landlord - (trade or profession)", depending on which activity yields the greater income. Land or property used directly by such persons in the pursuance of a trade or profession other than agriculture may not be confiscated.

d. The unit for computation of the average land holdings per landlord household in a given area shall be on the basis of one or several hsien i.e., all holdings regardless of location. The resulting figures shall be adopted after the concerned special district or hsien government has secured the approval of the provincial government.

## 2. Rich Peasants

a. Rich peasants who rent out land in excess of the amount they cultivate by their own and hired labor shall be designated semilandlord rich peasants. Land and other property of rich peasants and semilandlord rich peasants shall be handled according to ~~Article 6 of the Land Reform Law~~.

b. In the family of a landlord, an individual who generally tills his land with his own labor or with the aid of hired help, but leases the greater portion of his land shall be classified as a landlord and not as a rich peasant. The disposition of his land and property shall be handled according to Article 2 of the Land Reform Law. However, barring special circumstances, after appropriate redistribution has been made, that portion of the land tilled by the owner shall be retained by the owner.

Those rich peasants who become workers, if within the family they are in a position of taking order from the head of the family, and are not in a position of giving orders, shall be awarded appropriate worker status and shall be differentiated from those persons who do not work.

## 3. Medium Peasants

No supplementary regulations

## 4. Poor Peasants

No supplementary regulations

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## 5. Laborers (including hired farm workers)

/No supplementary regulations/B. Decisions on Several Land Reform Problems

## 1. Laborers and Fractional Laborers

a. In large families consisting of more than 15 members, one third of those members of the family capable of working must spend one third of each year in essential labor to qualify the family as a labor family.

b. The above-mentioned essential labor refers to a major category of labor concerned with agricultural production. Under general conditions, this is an important standard by which to distinguish between landlords and rich peasants. A laborer in a landlord family who engages in an occupation other than agricultural also shall be considered as being engaged in essential labor, but his class status shall be based on the nature of his occupation. His treatment shall be determined by his class status. For instance, a member of a landlord family who practices medicine or teaches shall be treated as a doctor or teacher.

## 2. Wealthy Medium Peasants

/No supplementary regulations/

## 3. Duration and Extent of Exploitation by Rich Peasants

a. The previous standard for distinguishing between rich peasants and wealthy medium peasants was whether or not the income accruing as a result of exploitation amounted to more or less than 15 percent of the annual income of the entire family. This standard shall now be amended to 25 percent. Peasants who receive less than 25 percent of their total annual income by means of exploitation shall be classed either as medium peasants or wealthy medium peasants.

b. The following standards shall be used to facilitate calculation of status:

(1) A person may not be considered a rich peasant if, in employing a full-time worker or engaging in other forms of exploitation, the degree of exploitation is less than the employment of one full-time worker.

(2) Generally, a person may be considered a rich farmer if, in employing two full-time workers or engaging in other forms of exploitation, the degree of exploitation is greater than the employment of two full-time workers. If the number of consumer members of the family is large, however, and the standard of living not affluent, the family shall not be considered as being in the rich peasant class.

(3) The status of persons whose degree of exploitation is greater than the employment of one full-time worker and less than the two full-time workers shall be determined on the basis of a careful calculation of the percentage of total income represented by such exploitation. If greater than 25 percent, such persons shall be considered rich peasants; if not greater, as medium or wealthy medium peasants.

(4) A person who employs part-time workers or workers by the month to a total of 120 man-days per year shall be considered as an employer of one full-time worker.

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(5) In calculating the extent of exploitation, the portion representing the direct receipt of exploitation shall be considered the equivalent of the portion representing the application of exploitation, [thus allowing the calculation to be made on consideration of either the exploited or exploiter].

#### 4. Reactionary Rich Peasants

The provisions of this regulation shall apply equally to landlords and criminal elements in other classes.

#### 5. Property of Rich Peasants

The provisions of this regulation shall also apply equally to landlords.

#### 6. Bankrupt Landlords

[No supplementary regulations]

#### 7. Indigent

[No supplementary regulations]

#### 8. Intellectuals

a. All persons holding managerial positions in agencies, enterprises or schools of governments, cooperatives or private individuals, whose entire income or main source of livelihood consists of wage or salary payments from such employment, shall be designated as white-collar workers. White-collar workers shall be considered a part of the laboring class.

b. All intellectuals who possess special skills or knowledge, such as engineers, teachers, and specialists who are engaged to do mental work in agencies, enterprises, or schools of governments, cooperatives, or as private individuals, and whose entire income or main source of livelihood consists of high wages or salary payments from such employment, shall be designated as superior white-collar workers. Their class status shall be the same as that of other white-collar workers. Agents of capitalist management in private economic organizations and enterprises may not be designated as white-collar workers.

c. Former responsible officials of the KMT government may not be given white-collar status. Those former officials whose main source of income since the liberation has resulted from employment in another trade or profession shall be given status on the basis of such employment.

#### 9. Unemployed

[No supplementary regulations]

#### 10. Religious Workers

[No supplementary regulations]

#### 11. Personal and Land Status of Red Army Soldiers of Landlord or Rich Peasant Extraction

The provisions of this article shall apply to all command and combat personnel of the People's Liberation Army and to all command and combat personnel who defected from the KMT armed forces as of the day such personnel are reorganized as elements of the People's Liberation Army. All such persons shall be designated as revolutionary military personnel.

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## 12. Workers Whose Families Have Landlord or Rich Peasant Status

[No supplementary regulations]

## 13. Class Status of Landlords, Rich Peasants, and Capitalists After Marriage With Laborers, Peasants, and Poor People

Daughters of workers, peasants, and poor people who marry landlords, rich peasants, or capitalists prior to liberation, but have enjoyed their new standard of living for less than 3 years, shall retain their former class status. If they marry landlords after liberation, they shall also retain their former status, but if they marry rich farmers or capitalists after liberation, they shall be considered the same class as their husbands after one year in the new standard of living.

## 14. Landlords and Rich Peasants Concurrently Engaged in Business

[No supplementary regulations]

## 15. Managers of Public Halls

[No supplementary regulations]C. New Decisions of the Government Administration Council

## 1. Minor Handicraftsmen

Persons who work independently at handicraft production, who have little tools, work space, and raw materials, and who derive their entire income or a major portion thereof from the sale of their products, shall be designated small handicraftsmen or independent producers. As a general rule, small handicraftsmen shall not hire additional labor. If, however, they hire an assistant or apprentice on a supplementary basis, but still depend upon their own labor as their main source of livelihood, their social position shall be similar to that of middle peasants.

## 2. Handicraft Capitalists

Persons who possess large amounts of production capital in the form of handicraft tools, shop space, and raw materials, who employ laborers and apprentices to carry out handicraft production, and whose entire income or the main source of livelihood is derived from profits, shall be designated handicraft capitalists. The principal distinction to be made between small handicraftsmen and handicraft capitalists is that the former employ assistants and apprentices merely to supplement their own labor, while the latter hire laborers and apprentices to secure profits and not to supplement their own labor.

## 3. Handicraft Laborers

Persons who own no production capital or only a few hand tools, who engage in handicraft production by selling their services to consumers, handicraft capitalists, and small handicraftsmen, and whose entire income or main source of livelihood is derived from wages, shall be designated handicraft laborers. The social position of handicraft laborers shall be the same as that of laborers and hired farm workers.

## 4. Independent Professionals

All persons who operate their own enterprises, but who do not exploit others, such as doctors, teachers, lawyers, newspaper reporters, authors, and fine arts workers, shall be designated independent professionals. Such persons

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who occasionally hire assistants to aid in the operation of their businesses shall not be classed as exploiters. If they do not operate independently, but work in the employ of a government or private agency, such persons shall be designated white-collar workers.

#### 5. Small Merchants and Small Tradesmen

Persons who possess no capital or very little, who purchase goods from merchants or small producers for sale to consumers, who do not hire laborers or shop attendants, and who depend upon their own labor in the distribution process of commercial goods for their entire income or main source of livelihood, shall be designated small merchants. Small merchants who operate from no fixed establishment shall be designated small tradesmen.

#### 6. Commercial Capitalists or Merchants

Persons who possess commercial capital, who hire laborers or shop attendants, and whose entire income or main source of livelihood is derived from profits shall be designated commercial capitalists or merchants.

#### 7. Enlightened Gentry

The term "enlightened gentry" shall apply to those individuals in the landlord class who have registered opposition to Chiang Kai-shek's reactionary rule and imperialistic aggression, and who have actively supported the practices of the people's democracy, the people's democratic dictatorship, and land reform. In addition to the Land Reform Law and other regulations affecting the disposition of their land and property, by the terms of these regulations, enlightened gentry are to be given appropriate political and livelihood consideration. They shall be solicited to participate in activities concerned with land reform, people's governments, and popular organizations.

#### 8. Dependents of Revolutionary Heroes

The term "dependents of revolutionary heroes" shall apply to fathers, mothers, wives (or husbands), sons, daughters, and brothers and sisters under 16 years of age of persons who died in battle or in serving their country since the 1911 revolution, in resisting Japan, and in the war of liberation. These regulations shall also apply to dependents of those designated by the Land Reform Law.

#### 9. Family Status of Youths and Young Students

Aside from those whose class status has already been established during land reform, youths and young students in school who are under 18 years of age shall not be given individual class status, but only status according to family origin.

#### 10. Local Despots

The term local despots shall apply to those who rely on or organize a reactionary force with which to seize control of a certain area for personal gain and who customarily use force to oppress and plunder the people, causing heavy losses in human lives and property. Such elements shall be tried and sentenced by people's courts after public accusation.

#### 11. Changes in Landlord Status

Persons now holding landlord status may be given worker or other status under the following conditions:

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a. After the completion of land reform, complete observance of government regulations, use of their services in production work requiring labor or in some other form of enterprise, and complete lack of reactionary activities.

b. After observation and compliance with the above rules for 5 years or more, a change to a labor or other status may be made after approval of, (1) a village people's delegates assembly and, (2) a hsien people's government. The new status shall be determined by the nature of the labor or enterprise.

If the actions of such landlords run contrary to the conditions established above, these regulations shall not apply.

Rich farmers in old liberated areas who meet the conditions established above for a period of 3 years after land reform may be allowed to change their status by following the same procedures established for landlords.

Those who hold status, one of which is landlord, shall be treated according to the other status on completion of land reform.

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